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NME

Hello...



THIS WEEK'S ISSUE of *NME* has made me all wistful and nostalgic. Back in 2004 I was totally obsessed with a band called Jarcrew. They came from Ammanford in South Wales (the small town where The

Velvet Underground's John Cale went to school), played a bizarre and sometimes baffling mixture of electronica, prog and punk, signed to Gut Records then split up when the drummer became a Jehovah's Witness. They're the best band that no one has heard of, and their gift to me (aside from the massive tunes) was telling me about and turning me on to Bloc Party the summer before they exploded with their 2005 debut, 'Silent Alarm'.

What Jarcrew lacked, Bloc Party had in abundance – the ability to connect their mad, off-the-wall ideas with a massive audience, coupled with the understanding of how to translate those mixed-up emotions and pent-up frustrations into genuine indie classics.

The fact that Bloc Party are back on the cover of *NME* this week is brilliant. The fact that they're also going to be headlining the 2016 NME Tour – 11 years after they played it alongside Kaiser Chiefs, The Futureheads and The Killers – is proof that great music and great bands are enduring. Long live Bloc Party (and Jarcrew, obvs).

Enjoy.

MIKE WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikelike

Noel Fielding's
guide to modern
life **p10**



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The headliners of 2016's NME Tour are back with a new line-up, album and attitude

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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

The Stone Roses (from left):
John Squire, Mani,
Ian Brown, Reni



The Roses rise again

Manchester icons The Stone Roses announce three giant 2016 shows

WHEN MANCHESTER WAS flooded with posters of The Stone Roses' trademark lemons, anticipation of an announcement from the group reached fever pitch. Later on, the legendary baggy band unveiled three massive shows: Manchester City's Etihad Stadium on June 17 and 18, and T In The Park festival on July 8.

The news came after the lemons – an image regularly featured in the band's artwork – appeared in shops on the morning of Monday November 2. Fans noted that 16 lemons were used in the campaign, suggesting an announcement about 2016 was imminent.

They were right. The Roses are now second favourites behind Adele to headline next year's Glastonbury Festival, according to bookmakers Betfair. Others are speculating about the band releasing a third album, following a gap of 21 years since 1994's 'The Second Coming'.

Will there be a new album?

What we know about a follow-up to 1994's 'The Second Coming'

DECEMBER 2011

It was reported that the band had record deals with Universal (UK) and Columbia (US).

SEPTEMBER 2013

Mani told *GigsLutz*: "[We are] working on a few bits. 2015, man. 2015!"

MARCH 20, 2014

Ian Brown told *NME*: "Is something happening? You never know."

OCTOBER 24, 2015

Noel Gallagher told *Soccer AM*: "I know what's going on... They're blooming."

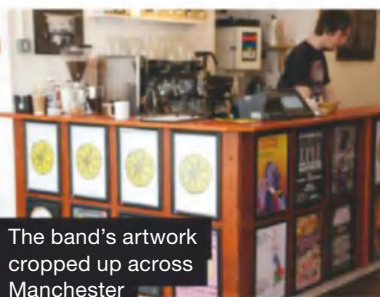
THE VERDICT: MAYBE!

The dates

Tickets go on general sale at 9.30am on November 6

Friday June 17 & Saturday June 18 Etihad Stadium, Manchester

Friday July 8 T In The Park, Perthshire, Scotland



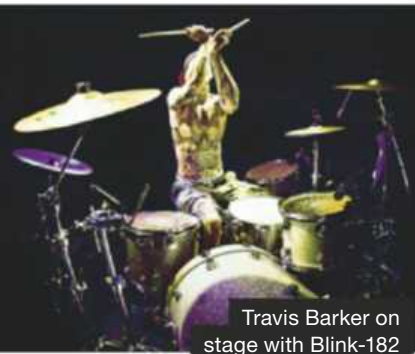
The band's artwork cropped up across Manchester

Back from the Blink

Guns, heiresses, punk nudity: Blink-182's Travis Barker has lived quite a life. Here, he discusses the wildest bits of his new autobiography, *Can I Say*

Suge Knight married me to Paris Hilton

"Paris would have huge parties at her house and [Death Row Records mogul] Suge Knight was always there. Paris and I had been seeing each other and in the middle of partying, drunk and high, Suge was like, 'Y'all need to get married! I'm gonna marry you.' Suge wasn't really a pastor, it was like a 'hood marriage'."



Travis Barker on stage with Blink-182

I was tooled up at my wedding

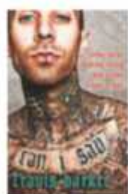
"A couple of weeks before the wedding, my [now ex-] wife Shanna was threatened – like, 'Yo, I'm gonna kill you and your family.' The person that threatened her knew where we lived, there were threats and a lot of crazy talking going back and forth. So when I went to my wedding, myself and my groomsmen were armed. [Blink-182 bandmates] Tom and Mark were like, 'What the f**k's going on with you?' And I was like, 'I wish I could explain it.'"

I taught Rihanna to play drums

"She wanted to play drums during her live show and asked if I would teach her. She was a f***ing good drummer, too. She caught on so quick. I saw a recording of the show and she killed it."

I got stoned with Cypress Hill and played the longest show of my life

"We toured with Cypress Hill, and on the last day [rapper] B-Real said, 'Trav, it's only right we smoke.' So I grab [Blink-182 guitarist] Tom and we hit the bong a bunch. I thought we had an hour before we went on, but then our tour manager's knocking on the dressing room going '[bassist] Mark's already on stage, you've got one minute.' It was the longest f***ing show ever. I was so stoned."



Can I Say by Travis Barker is out now

The 1975 announce arena tour

Manchester's gloss-rock anti-heroes play their biggest-ever gigs next March. You should go and see them, because:

THEY'RE WILD

Frontman Matt Healy has the demeanour of a star on the edge of implosion, staggering around stages swigging wine, sporting hair seemingly cut by mad, clipper-wielding tramps.

THEY'RE TRANSFORMING

Ahead of their new album, they deleted all online profiles, prompting fans to believe they'd split. Not so. "Our projected identity must change not only visually but philosophically," Healy explained.

THEY'RE POP MASTERS

Tracks like 'Chocolate', 'Sex' and 'Girls' cut to the heart of modern pop, skipping between electronica, pop and rock with a mischievous gait.

Priority Tickets for The 1975 are available on Wednesday November 11 at 9am – 48 hours before general release. Search O2 Priority

The dates

Tickets go on general sale at 9am, Friday Nov 13

Tue 8 & Wed 9 March O2 Academy Brixton, London

Mon 14 & Tue 15 O2 Apollo, Manchester

Fri 18 & Sat 19 O2 Academy, Glasgow

Tue 22 Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

TRAVIS BARKER WORDS: DAVID RENSHAW PHOTOS: WILL TOLEDO, CHRIS ROQUE, MATT RICHARDSON

Too much information

Outrageous tell-all rock autobiographies



SCAR TISSUE

Anthony Kiedis

The Red Hot Chili Peppers frontman on his unconventional childhood, drug addiction, spirituality, music and, er, sleeping with his dad's girlfriend.



THE DIRT

Mötley Crüe


From the groupies to the drugs to the celebrity hook-ups, it's all here. Worth reading for Ozzy Osbourne cameos and a story about what not to do with a burrito.

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JACK DANIEL'S JACK ROCKS

Clockwise from left:
Protomartyr, The Big
Moon, Hooton Tennis
Club, Pixx

Four bands who'll slay at this year's Sŵn Festival

...according to NME's
New Music Editor,
Matt Wilkinson

The Big Moon

Four perennially tipsy London girls who literally dance on to the stage before annihilating it with pristinely crafted indie goodness. They say they're influenced by Fat White Family and Palma Violets' ability to bridge the gap between audience and band, and they look set to take that blueprint kicking and screaming into the mainstream.

Best track: 'Nothing Without You'
soundcloud.com/commoonicate

Protomartyr

Detroit punks Protomartyr have been toiling away in the underworld for years now, so it's nice to see them finally get some mainstream love. They're one of America's most exciting, intelligent bands – angsty, doom-laden and gloriously loud.

Best track: 'Scum, Rise!'
soundcloud.com/protomartyr

Hooton Tennis Club

Named after a real-life tennis club near their hometown and praised by everybody from punk legend Wreckless Eric to ex-Coral man Bill Ryder-Jones, this lot make fuzzy, good-time indie seem brand new again.

Best track: 'P.O.W.E.R.F.U.L P.I.E.R.R.E'
hootontennisclub.bandcamp.com

Pixx

Hannah Rodgers is one of London's most promising songwriters. Part of the same London scene as Wolf Alice, she's signed to devout indie label 4AD and, musically, is able to veer from Grimes-like kookiness to the kind of sweet, mumsy-balladry that's tailor-made for homely Christmas TV ads.

Best track: 'Fall In'
pixxmusic.com

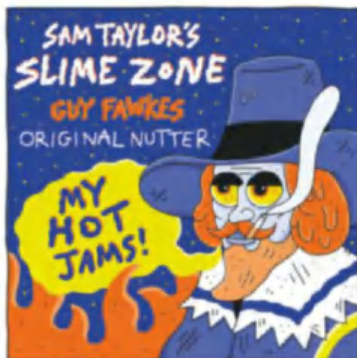
Sŵn Festival

Need to know

DATE: November 7-8
LOCATION: Various venues, Cardiff
TICKETS: £25 (day)-£47 (weekend)
WEBSITE: swnfest.com

Cant make it? No worries, head over to NME.com/jackrocks next week to see exclusive content from the Jack Rocks Stage at Sŵn.

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For Hospitality Packages mcfc.co.uk/events

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No pre-sales

Noel Fielding's guide to modern life

The *Mighty Boosh* and *Luxury Comedy* man is famous for his off-kilter way of seeing the world. Rich Pelley asked for his advice on surviving the relentless pace of day-to-day-living

MAINTAINING A SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

"I'm on Twitter and Instagram but I don't really like it. Me and Julian [Barratt from *The Mighty Boosh*] are from a different generation, where it's embarrassing to promote yourself. If you walk into a shop and go, 'Hey, who likes my trousers?' most people will go, 'Mate, you're a d*ck'. So why say it on Twitter?"

THE HOUSING CRISIS

"It's too expensive. If you live in London, you should be allowed to put up a hammock on Hampstead Heath and sleep there. That's what I do. In 30 years, you'll pay £10m to buy one small shelf in a cupboard. Like vinyl, housing will become obsolete. We'll all be filed by Apple. People will say, 'Download Noel and get him to the party.'"

NAVIGATING THE WORLD OF ONLINE DATING

"To me, it was your mate asking them out for you while you hid behind an ice-cream van. I've got friends who are real Tinder heads, but that scares the hell out of me. It's a million-to-one shot. We're dating without any of the illumination process. You're just a picture."

MANAGING YOUR MONEY

"One of my friends has had to go back to college, and was telling me how great it was to be accepted for a loan so he could pay his rent. It's madness. I feel for young people. Up to the eyeballs in debt before they've ever done anything, it's not right. You should start on an even keel."

MAINTAINING A HEALTHY DIET

"I once went on an all-juice diet. It makes you feel light-headed as your body gets rid of caffeine and sugar, and you start feeling good. Then it becomes weirdly addictive. You have loads of energy, your eyes go really shiny and you start looking amazing. Then you have some humus and a bit of red pepper and you can't believe how amazing it is, because you've deprived your body of food. It's good to jolt yourself out of the comfort zone."

KEEPING UP WITH TECHNOLOGY

"It's weird having a computer with you all the time. It means you don't have to engage with real life. It's good if you're on your own, but when you're out you do spend a lot of time just looking at the tops of people's heads. The best game in the world is to quietly hide someone's iPhone and watch the f***ing panic. People freak out. I don't think you'd have that reaction if a member of your family died."

KEEPING UP WITH YOUR FRIENDS

"You need a handful of best friends who will stay with you for life. Then you've got a secondary group. Then you've got people you know when you're drunk. Being on the telly is like having Alzheimer's. So many people come up and go, 'Hey!' You go, 'Oh God, I can't remember who this is.' Then they go, 'You don't know me, I've just seen your show.' And you go, 'Thanks a lot. I've just spent half-an-hour trying to work out who the f***k you are.'"

An Evening With Noel Fielding tours from November 12, and is released on DVD on November 16. See noelfielding.co.uk

Last W33K IN NUMBERS



459

Complaints made to Ofcom about ITV's new *Jekyll And Hyde* series, mostly saying it's too violent for a 6.30pm slot.



£6.3m

Taken by *Spectre* on its first full day of release in the UK, beating *Skyfall*'s record by £0.1million.



5

Days it took for fans to watch Adele's 'Hello' video 100 million times on YouTube.



700,000

Listeners Nick Grimshaw's Radio 1 Breakfast Show lost in the three months up to September.

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AND REMEMBER THEM VERY ACCURATELY.
I THINK THAT EVEN THE WAY IN WHICH
A MAN SHAVES IN THE MORNING
IS WELL WORTH RECORDING.

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Show men:
Jez (Robert Webb) and Mark (David Mitchell)

One last Peep

Mitchell and Webb on the final ever series of *Peep Show*

AFTER 12 YEARS, NINE seasons and at least one barbecued dog, Mark Corrigan and Jeremy Osborne's exploits as TV's greatest losers in the mighty *Peep Show* are coming to an end. Time for the show's stars – David Mitchell and Robert Webb – to answer some big questions about El Dude Brothers' last stand.

Why's it finishing?

"Because it's a show about young men and we're not young men now," says Mitchell. "It's the ageing process rather than the commissioner not wanting it, which is how we thought it would end."

Who's in the final series?

Classic characters including Mark's sometime-boss Johnson, ex-wife Sophie and on-off girlfriend Dobby will return. Jez, meanwhile, starts episode one bunking in with cuddly crack fan Super Hans. "I do the last scene in an office, with a character we've never seen before," says Webb, mysteriously. Perhaps it'll be Mark's Jeremy-replacement flatmate, played by Tim Key.



Tim Key (left) makes his *Peep Show* debut while Matt King returns as Super Hans



Are Mark and Jez still TV's most likeable b*stards?

Peep Show's genius lies in the fact that however horrible Mark and Jeremy are, they're still loveable. "They're a real couple of sh*ts," says Webb. "The job is to play them in a way that makes people want to carry on watching them." Plus, says Mitchell, "Their friendship is based on the fact they despise each other. They derive a lot of comfort from looking at the other one and saying, 'Whatever's wrong with my life, I'm not as bad as him.'"

When it ends, will Mark and Jeremy be gone forever?

"I think one day we might go and see what Mark and Jeremy are doing in their old age," says David Mitchell.

Peep Show starts on Wednesday Nov 11 at 10pm on Channel 4

You will be watching

Who's who in the last series of *Peep Show*



MARK

Played by: David Mitchell
Who: Over-educated,

sexually repressed nerd.
Best quote: "Is this a bit like stalking? Stalking is a very loaded term. I prefer to think of it as extreme liking."



JEREMY

Played by: Robert Webb
Who: Over-sexed, layabout

stud muffin frustrated with his ever-failing hunt for rock superstardom or a solid job.
Best quote: "If I can just get rid of the dog corpse, there's a chance I still might get laid here!"



DOBBY

Played by: Isy Suttie
Who: Mark's fellow geek love

interest, last seen running off with her ex-boyfriend Simon.
Best quote: "Jeff's doing a joke. Jeff's doing a joke. Everybody quiet 'cos Jeff's doing a joke."



SUPER HANS

Played by: Matt King
Who: Jeremy's drug-gulping

ultra-hedonist partner in crime and on-off bandmate.
Best quote: "Jez, can you tell me, as a mate... who knows me really well, is the bottom half of me on fire?"



SOPHIE

Played by: Olivia Colman
Who: Mark's ex-wife and

mother of his son, now back with office slimeball Jeff.
Best quote: "You're like a life-support machine, Mark. Except instead of giving life, you suck it all out."



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PEUGEOT 108

MOTION & EMOTION



PEUGEOT

Katherine Ryan

NME'S QUITE NEW COLUMNIST

ON...

Stockings

NOT BRAGGING, but I travelled to Peckham on Monday to see my friend's stunning new romantic comedy, *SuperBob*, starring the incomparable Catherine Tate. We took pictures outside the cinema, where *SuperBob*'s poster hung next to a similar mock-up for Vin Diesel's new movie. Of course, indie films don't have the marketing budgets that big American studios do, and it occurred to me that the British public were in grave danger of missing out on the genius of their

very own homegrown superhero. I can't fly, so I tweeted the photo in the name of truth and justice.

I am a woman, so in addition to voicing their support for the film, people immediately wanted to know about my shoes and jacket. Then he arrived: another idiot man hoping to trick me into participating in his sexual fetish. "What kind of lovely stockings are you wearing under that outfit, Katherine?" Oh, I know all too well about the stockings people; they're closely related to the foot people. The worst is the trickery of it. I once had a guy posing as a charity on Twitter, who relentlessly claimed that I could "help orphans who don't have shoes by tweeting a picture of my bare feet". How? By the magic of you w*inking, footwear is going to materialise on to the soles of kids with dead parents? I actually LOL'd, wondering what kind of functioning imbecile would fall for such nonsense. Then I saw that a number of celebrity women had tweeted him foot pictures. Oh.

I used to be that

"He offered \$300 to whomever could inflate her own stockings"

imbecile. When I was 18, I was targeted by an inflatophiliac. (I'd never heard of it either.) A man rang the restaurant I was working at, pretending to be from a local radio station. He offered \$300 to whomever could figure out a way to inflate her own stockings. A true idiot savant, I explained to my co-workers that if we fed clear bin bags down to the feet of our stockings, then forced air in at the waist with my bicycle pump (this is pornographic literature btw), our legs would seemingly

inflate. We tried it on me and it looked hilarious. We took photos and emailed them to his *hotmail* account, along with my *home* address where he could send payment and my *mobile number* should he need anything else. He rang me incessantly, asking me to narrate a scene where I'd inflated my stockings with helium and was floating around in my flat. He had me at a petrol station, taking pictures in stockings next to the tyre pump. I hadn't noticed any red flags. When the money never came, I went to the radio station to collect it. "We've got another one!" the receptionist called, and

a lovely woman from human resources gently explained that 'Big Blimpin' was not an actual programme on CBC Radio.

I've had my share of scrapes, but like *SuperBob*, I'm just a regular guy trying to save the world. In tights.



Katherine flies by the new *Superbob* film in London's Peckham

Katherine Ryan's high five

Why Rita Ora dating Travis Barker is gonna turn out great

1 They were confirmed as an item days after they first met. Barker later downplayed their relationship to "friends" who are "just enjoying each other".

2 They have the same taste in music! As the old saying goes, "All You Need Is Punk Rock".

3 Travis' ex-wife reportedly punched Paris Hilton when it was rumoured they were dating. So she's got that out of her system.

4 They live in different countries and Travis has a very understandable fear of flying. So Rita's in for a ton of Airmiles. Get it, gurl!

5 Travis is a drummer! These guys rank just below surfers, DJs and men who live with their mums on the boyfriends list. *This'll turn out great!*



Travis Barker and Rita Ora

PHOTOS: BELLA HOWARD; GETTY; STYLING: JEN MICHALSKI-BRAY; HAIR & MAKE-UP: FIONA EUSTACE; TOP: BY FOREVER UNIQUE; SKIRT BY KATE SPADE; MADISON AVE; RINGS BY CARAT AND SWAROVSKI; BRACELET BY CARAT; EARRINGS BY LOLEA & GRACE

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LIST FOR LIFE



BECAUSE EVERYONE LOVES A LIST

10 of the best big-screen transformations



1 Eddie Murphy

Coming To America, 1988

Murphy's greatest transformation came in hit romcom *Coming To America*. He portrayed several characters, including a middle-aged Jewish man called Saul.



4 Charlize Theron

With prosthetic teeth, hefty weight gain and complexion-reddening make-up, Theron looks nothing like herself as Aileen Wuornos in this serial-killer film.



2 Tom Hanks

Cast Away, 2000

Hanks gained 50lb to play a FedEx employee who became stranded on a desert island. He then grew out his hair and shed the weight so he looked like he'd been there for years. Cue Oscar nomination.



5 Christian Bale

The Machinist, 2004

Bale shed 62lb to play an emaciated factory worker. The Welsh actor initially planned to drop even more weight, before the film's producers intervened for the sake of his health.



3 Nicole Kidman

The Hours, 2002

Some critics claimed they were distracted by the prosthetic nose Kidman adopted for her Oscar-winning role as Virginia Woolf – variously described as “striking”, “unfortunate” and “absurd”.



6 John Travolta

Hairspray, 2007

To play overweight housewife Edna Turnblad in the remake of this John Waters classic, Travolta was remodelled using prosthetics and a fat suit, in a process which took four hours a day.



7 Cate Blanchett

I'm Not There, 2007

The experimental Bob Dylan biopic had six different actors depicting the iconic muso. Most striking was Blanchett, who gave an Oscar-nominated performance as Jude Quinn, a singer who enrages fans by going electric at a folk festival.



8 Tom Hardy

Bronson, 2008

To play a man often dubbed “Britain's most violent prisoner” in *Bronson*, Hardy packed on 45lb of muscle and fat by eating chicken and rice throughout the day, followed by pizza, ice cream and Coca-Cola at night.



9 Tom Cruise

Tropic Thunder, 2008

For his cameo, Hollywood's smallest actor donned a fat suit, a bald wig and prosthetic hands. It's been rumoured that the physical inspiration for Hollywood producer Les Grossman was a human penis.



10 Johnny Depp

Black Mass, 2015

An unflattering haircut and a pair of specs make Depp virtually unrecognisable in this month's biopic of notorious Boston gangster Whitey Bulger, *Black Mass*.

Go to NME.com
for loads more lists



Sandra Bullock

The Oscar-winner is heading up an all-female redo (of the already-a-redo) *Ocean's Eleven*.



Oasis

'Half The World Away' is tipped to be the song covered in this year's John Lewis Christmas ad.



Glastonbury


Noel has ruled out any chance of Oasis playing the festival because “they [Glastonbury] don't have enough money”.



Ellen Ripley

The fifth *Alien* movie has been put on hold, so as not to clash with the upcoming sort-of prequel *Prometheus 2*.





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Go Further

THINGS WE LIKE

THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE



Pack it in

Stash all your quinoa, avocados and cereal bars in this khaki-leather 'Gwyneth' backpack.
£135 paulsboutique.com



Gold! Almost...

Into metal music? Precision-made from solid brass, these fancy buds are bling for *inside* your ears.
£159 masterdynamic.co.uk



Star-shaped

This stylish 'Stardust' bracelet is filled with tiny crystals – no, not those sort of crystals, Doherty...
£49 swarovski.com



The eyes have it

Amp brand Marshall bring a rock'n'roll aesthetic to their cool range of shades.
£107.50 marshall eyewear.com



Polish up well

Cool London nail bar Wah Nails offer up this psychedelic, flame-coloured polish trio.
£18 boots.com



Hat's off

Having survived its Craig David years, this classic black beanie will never go out of style.
£49 tigerofsweden.com



Dressed to kill

Knitted for homely warmth, but with a lace insert for a sense of guilty luxuriance.
£195 Thekooples.co.uk



Stripe it lucky

As the winter months draw in, you'll want to snuggle up in this cosy, stripy wool jumper.
£14.99 hm.com



Step on

Smart and sturdy, these brushed metal-effect boots give you that fresh-from-the-refinery look.
£115 timberlandonline.co.uk



Desert storm

From Britpop lad to Bloc Party devotee, the polo shirt is rock fashion's unsung staple.
£26 riverisland.com



Go for gold

This lightweight waterproof with a gold lining is a showy glamer's dream.
£100 originalpenguin.co.uk



Fix up, look sharp

For perfecting that Alex Turner duck curl we favour V05 Ultimate Hold Hairspray.
£3.49 superdrug.com



Beady iPhone

Britpop-up your iPhone 6 with this Union Jack case from Liam Gallagher's accessories range.
£25 prettygreen.com



Glove me do

Made of merino wool, your hands will feel super-snug in these Ralph Lauren gloves.
£40 johnlewis.com

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What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

East London



"The skate scene is the best thing about London"

◀ **Prince René Youngman**
20, chef/model

Listening to:
SYNKRO
Look At Yourself
"It's really clean, it just sounds really soothing, everyone should hit it up. It's not something you'd normally listen to."

Wearing: Charity shop jacket, Passport shirt, Primark jeans, battered up Vans.
Best thing about London:
"The skate scene is probably the best thing about London at the moment."

Cordelia O'Brien >
20, aspiring designer

Listening to:
THE INTERNET
Lonely Notes
"Because she's different, she's special. It's a different sound, a little bit underground."

Wearing: Top from Monki (Swedish store), father's hat, Dr Martens boots.
Best thing about London:
"The people. Friendly people."



◀ **Stefanie Rinner**
25, hairdresser

Listening to:
CHET FAKER
"Because it has a bit of beat and I like his voice."

Wearing: Topshop leather jacket, Italian top.
Best thing about London:
"Street art, people, music, party."



Mustafa Sahin >
35, project manager

Listening to:
GREGORY PORTER
"He has a great voice, great songs, a good jazz beat and it's very timely; in November it's London Jazz Week."

Wearing: AllSaints jumper and trousers, Cos T-shirt.
Best thing about London:
"The diversity of people, cultures and food. I think we need to be very careful not to lose that diversity. We need the migrants, we need the people...the diversity."


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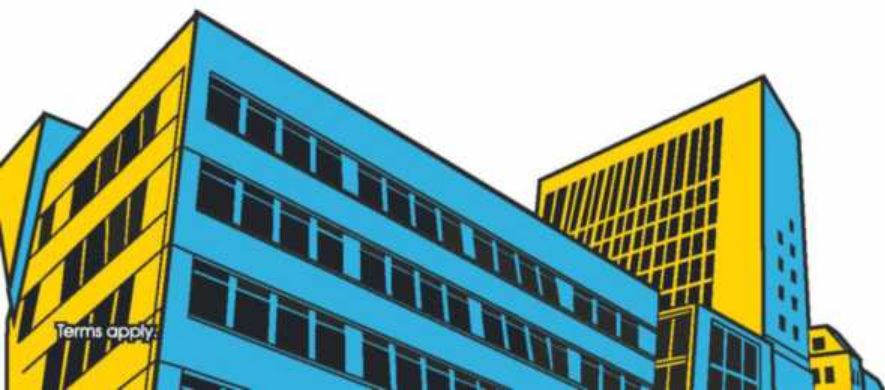
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BACK ON

THE BLOCC



Three years ago, **BlocParty** looked dead and buried. Now they're back with a new line-up and a deeply personal fifth album – but some of the old wounds are still raw, finds **Ben Homewood**

PHOTOGRAPHY:
RACHAEL WRIGHT

KELE OKEREKE'S LURID orange Hawaiian shirt and matching shorts is a bold wardrobe choice for a drizzly October morning in West London. But this is Bloc Party's first UK performance in more than two years, and the frontman is keen to make a big impression. Since their run of urgent, essential releases in the Noughties, Bloc Party have made only one new album – 2012's underwhelming 'Four' – been on hiatus twice, and shed two original members, bassist Gordon Moakes and drummer Matt Tong.

You'd be forgiven for assuming they'd split, which is why today's live radio session at the BBC's Maida Vale Studios is so crucial. After five turbulent years, Bloc Party are returning with new songs and two new members, 36-year-old bassist Justin Harris and 21-year-old drummer Louise Bartle. Fifth album 'Hymns' is due for release in January and they're headlining next year's big *NME* tour, having originally supported The Killers on the same tour at the start of their career in 2005.

New kids in the Bloc: (l-r) Justin Harris and Louise Bartle join the Party alongside Kele Okereke and Russell Lissack

Like The Libertines' improbable renaissance this year, Bloc Party's comeback is a big deal. They were one of the biggest and most important bands of the Noughties indie boom – their 2005 debut 'Silent Alarm' rocketed into the Top Five and was named *NME*'s Album Of The Year. Their aggressive riffs were indie-disco dynamite, but they were played with an aloof intelligence that inspired a legion of similarly attired devotees. Even Oasis seemed riled by their ascent; in 2007, Noel Gallagher labelled them "indie sh*t", while Liam went for "a band off University Challenge". Kele was always a riveting interviewee: outspoken, sarcastic and frustrated at constant questions about his ethnicity, Catholic upbringing and ambiguous sexuality (he came out as gay in *BUTT* magazine in 2010).

Yet, even as far back as 2005, Kele had raised the issue of band unity when he told *Pitchfork*: "Sometimes we get on; sometimes I really hate them." Although the band pulled themselves back from the brink to make 'Four', Tong finally quit midway through a tour in 2013, announcing his departure via email. Bloc Party's sullen headline performance at Latitude that summer was Moakes' final appearance. Kele returned to his solo career with what appeared to be a sense of a relief. But once the dust settled on the 'split', he ultimately realised that Bloc Party was an institution worth saving.

Kele's garish get-up at Maida Vale suggests that age – he's now 34 – may have mellowed him. He exchanges grins with guitarist Russell Lissack during

a frenetic version of old classic 'Banquet' and looks pleased with how the band navigate new songs 'The Good News' and 'Exes'. "This is the first day of Bloc Party Mk II," he announces.

Crammed behind a mixing desk in the warren of studios an hour later, Bloc Party 2.0 are doing their first interview. It's polite and slightly awkward. Kele conducts proceedings, pointedly trying to involve his new bandmates and enthusing about a recent bonding curry. Justin and Louise smile shyly.

Portland-born Justin is one half of eclectic indie duo Menomena, who supported Bloc Party in 2008; he said yes immediately when Kele asked him to join late last year. Londoner Louise's recruitment was different. Kele got in touch after finding videos of the former session drummer – who was 11 when 'Silent Alarm' came out – playing on YouTube. The new quartet have played just four gigs together and only Justin signed up in time to feature on 'Hymns' (recorded early this year), but Kele insists the reincarnation is the real deal. "It feels like a new band. The chemistry and energy are different. It feels like the spirit is the same, but it's in a new host."

There's not a whisper of past upheaval until the subject of touring comes up. When it does, Kele suddenly doesn't seem so mellow. "I didn't really enjoy being in this band for various reasons over the years," he says cryptically.

"All I want is to enjoy travelling and writing with people I like."

"Does that mean I'm not invited then?" jokes Russell, quickly diffusing the tension and allowing Kele to park the subject. And with that, Bloc Party shuffle off to the vending machine to buy Quavers.

A Bloc Party refresher course

Keep up to speed with Kele & co



BEST ALBUM

Silent Alarm

Released: 2005

Russell Lissack, guitarist, says: "It captures a moment in time. Guitar music isn't like that any more."



BIGGEST GIG

Earls Court, February, 2013

Kele Okereke says:

"Performing to that many people, the adrenaline was going crazy and I can't really remember what happened."



OLD MEMBERS

Gordon Moakes

Job: Bassist

Age: 39

In the band: 2002-13

Did you know: Gordon ran Bloc Party's website during their early years.



Matt Tong

Job: Drummer

Age: 36

In the band: 2002-13

Did you know: Matt suffered a collapsed lung touring America in 2006, possibly a result of his "energetic drumming".



NEW MEMBERS

Justin Harris

Job: Bassist

Age: 36

Did you know: Justin has been introducing Russell to sushi. "I've given him a lot of raw fish," he says.



Louise Bartle

Job: Drummer

Age: 21

Did you know: As well as playing for Selena Gomez and Eliza Doolittle, Louise has made kit-battering cameos in *Skins* and *Toast Of London*.

Over

breakfast with Kele in South London a week later, things get prickly pretty quickly. He's catching a flight to Germany to DJ that afternoon, has just shaken off a cold and seems tired. We discuss his hectic week, during which Bloc Party made a video for new single 'The Love Within', a space-age floor-filler that hinges on Russell's chewy guitar work. "I'm trying not to obsess or fret or scrutinise," he begins. "No offence, but this part [interviews] isn't really the most fun for me. The pay-off starts when we get in front of people."

Kele moved to Clapham from East London's Shoreditch four years ago and the change of scene had a significant impact. "It's the best decision I ever made," he says, echoing a lyric from 2007's 'Song For Clay (Disappear Here)' (*"East London is a vampire/ It sucks the joy right out of me"*). Now free of "vomiting City boys" and able to buy milk "without bumping into someone from a band", he lives on a quiet street with his boyfriend and their dog.

'Hymns' was conceived at this new retreat. Whereas Kele's second solo album, 2014's 'Trick', was inspired by clubbing, 'Hymns' is a product of holing up with the curtains drawn. Kele wanted the songs to "have the reverence I associate with spiritual or devotional music". The result is a spacious, serene record with none of the fiddliness of previous Bloc Party albums. 'Into The Earth' and 'Only He Can Heal Me' are some of their sparsest songs yet, and the emotional 'Exes' (a track about "looking back with sadness" that Kele's boyfriend apparently hates) is given some extra heft by a male gospel choir.

"I've renewed my desire to make music in this band"
Kele Okereke



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BLOC PARTY

However, Kele doesn't want 'Hymns' to be perceived as an overtly religious record. He was raised in Essex by Catholic Nigerian parents and had to go to church every week until the age of 20. "I'm not a religious person. There are lots of things about organised religion that are stupid or harmful, although there is something beautiful about giving yourself over [to a higher power]." Rather than religion, 'Hymns' is about honouring the things Kele holds sacred, namely "nature, water, light, the moon and sex".

The latter is the focus of 'Fortress', in which Kele sings in falsetto about sheets and sweat over muted beats. "*The arch of your back invites... DESIRE*" he whispers, before revealing "*I'm a fool for the sight/ of all the gold between your thighs*". The steaminess is inescapable, but Kele insists it's not gratuitous: "It's about cocooning yourself away from the world with someone you love."

Kele let Russell in on what he was doing in September 2014. The pair – friends since forming Bloc Party as teenagers – had seen each other sporadically since that Latitude gig, often discussing the possibility of reviving the band. Asking Kele when he *really* decided that the band had to make a fifth album prompts him to stare at the table. Looking up he begins an answer that lasts nearly 20 minutes.

"I knew when our ex-drummer left that I wanted to make a record. I didn't until then. Things had got so cold between us, I thought it was time to step out. When he made a French exit it gave me some desire to do this again, I realised it could be fun."

He looks down again before continuing. "It's weird talking about this. This is the first time I've spoken about the dynamic between us and I'm torn. I'm conscious they [Gordon and Matt] are probably gonna see this, but I want to be honest. I don't want to throw them under the bus or hurt their feelings and I still care about them as people, but I realise that if I'm gonna talk about it I need to do it honestly. So maybe I shouldn't. I think some things are going to have to stay private. We all got what we wanted. They have the freedom to do what they want and I have a renewed desire to make music in the band."

Kele is no longer in contact with Gordon or Matt and admits that 'Four' was affected by bad blood. "We'd had a break, ostensibly because we weren't sure if we wanted to be in a room together, and those feelings manifested again. It was clear that was how it'd always be – that's the reason I thought, 'I don't actually wanna do this.'"



Bloc Party in 2005, and (left) the new lineup play LA's FYF Fest in August

He starts to answer a question about what happened at Latitude in 2013, but catches himself again. "I don't want to talk about this actually. My one real memory is that we had an argument onstage and it was at that point I realised we were going to carry on without Gordon. Our relationships wouldn't recover."

What was the argument about? "I can tell you it was about someone doing cocaine and someone not being into it. That's all I'm gonna say. People think bands breaking up is sexy but often it's super mundane, like not flushing the toilet or washing up. It's often not about the flashpoints but deep-seated issues."

Kele is wary of sounding like a tyrant, but insists that Bloc Party Mk I had reached an impasse. "It was [change] or stop. I love what I do, so they had to go." He concedes that the new line-up might initially feel wrong for "people who have known us to be a certain way for a long time..."

but those fans don't own Bloc Party. I've always been adamant I know what's good for the survival of the band."

Kele is excited by taking the new-look band out on the road, and especially at headlining next year's NME tour – "we're gonna bring it really hard" – but a lingering uncertainty is obvious. "Will the same things go wrong again? We're only going to do this if we want to, so that's something I can't say hand on heart until we tour. I love making music with Russell and Justin and I'm looking forward to doing it with Louise. All we can hope for is making music that excites us."

On the phone a few hours later, Russell is more upbeat. The guitarist is walking his dog near his Essex home and he enthuses pretty much non-stop about Bloc Party's return. "There's a lot of positivity. This record came from me and Kele writing in a room together, which is how we started. It feels like the first time."

Russell is still in occasional contact with Gordon and Matt, and puts their departure down to touring strains, making a comparison with the *Big Brother* house. "Kele and I are both guilty fans! It's interesting to see how behaviour rapidly declines if you're in close proximity and haven't eaten. Tour life can be similar."

What will Bloc Party do differently this time round? "Well, there'll be a lot more punching each other in the face!" Which may be as close as we get to an admission of what actually went down back in 2013. There's an awkward pause before Russell quickly adds: "No, seriously, the only thing is to limit touring."

"I love Bloc Party," he finishes, "we'll be hanging out every day for the next two years, not knowing what's gonna happen. It's exciting."

With an absorbing new album in the bag, a much-anticipated tour on the horizon and two new members injecting fresh life into the band, Bloc Party are poised to revive the glory days of 2005. Of course, it wouldn't be Bloc Party without a certain degree of anxiety – but that is what's fuelled their best music. Don't call it a comeback, but Bloc Party are fighting fit once more.

NME

Where are they now?

Bloc Party are back. But what about the other bands of 2005's indie boom?



RAZORLIGHT

Scored a Number One hit with 'America' in 2006, before everyone got sick of the sight of their tight white jeans. By 2010, frontman Johnny Borrell was the only original member left – but the band still play festivals.



KAISER CHIEFS

'I Predict A Riot' was inescapable in 2005 but the thrill wore off. The Kaisers received a profile boost in 2013 when frontman Ricky Wilson became a coach on *The Voice*. Their sixth album is due in 2016.



THE RAKES

London four-piece The Rakes combined post-punk strut with wry social commentary on catchy Top 40 singles like '22 Grand Job'. They split in 2009; frontman Alan Donohoe is now a digital creative.



TOWERS OF LONDON

Rowdy and ridiculous, the Towers were a sincere but hopeless attempt to inject some rock'n'roll swagger into the Noughties indie scene. Now reformed, a new Towers song, 'Shake It', was released last week.



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10

TOURS
YOU NEED
TO CATCH
THIS
WINTER

The one that'll start 2016 with a bang

THE NME AWARDS TOUR 2016
WITH AUSTIN, TEXAS

For the past 20 years, the annual NME Awards Tour has brought together the most exciting bands in the country and broken acts including Coldplay, Franz Ferdinand, Florence and The Vaccines. Meet this year's incendiary roster

BLOC PARTY

WHO: London's masters of punk funk noir, back with new line-up.

TELL ME MORE: It was a rocky road to Bloc Party's 2012 fourth album 'Four'. Internal differences fractured the band and drummer Matt Tong and bassist Gordon Moakes quietly quit over the following years. Now, back with a new rhythm section and a fresh enthusiasm for hitting the road, Kele Okereke and Russell Lissack will be promoting fifth album 'Hymns'. Due in January, it's a collection of sensual, considered bangers that should sound great live.

WATCH OUT FOR: Watch out for the bits where they suddenly shed all pretence of indie rock, whack up the warp-speed techno beats and turn into a demented Daft Punk.

DRENGE

WHO: Cacophonous Derbyshire duo Eoin and Rory Loveless.

TELL ME MORE: Frontrunners of the Brit grunge revival, Drenge released their towering second album 'Undertow' this year, and have been blitzing venues around the world ever since, tearing up stages and festival tents with their snotty guitar assault.

WATCH OUT FOR: Their Labour MP fanboy Tom Watson, especially if he's crowd-surfing.

RATBOY

WHO: Essex punk Jordan Cardy who raps over hip-hop, hardcore and indie.

TELL ME MORE: After being inundated with comparisons to a similar urban troubadour, even Cardy himself has admitted to being "a sh't Jamie T". But his critics miss the point – Rat Boy feeds off the youthful vigour and hedonistic abandon that Jamie Treays has largely left behind, a new voice of anger and rebellion for a country turning sour.

WATCH OUT FOR: General chaos. His live shows are renowned for fights, stage invasions and a hell of a lot of chucked beer.

BUGZY MALONE

WHO: Manchester MC and key mover in the grime revival.

TELL ME MORE: Anyone who thought grime was a primarily London affair, think again. Bugzy has been raging around the north since 2010, building up a rabid fanbase that has since given him over a million YouTube views and a Number Eight EP on the UK album chart. Fans of Skepta, Novelist and Stormzy will devour his rhymes.

WATCH OUT FOR: 'Walk With Me': surefire pandemonium.

1

TICKETS: On sale from 9am, Friday Nov 6 at NME.com/tickets

THE DATES:

Jan 29 Great Hall, Cardiff
Jan 30 O2 Guildhall, Southampton
Feb 1 O2 Academy, Bristol
Feb 2 Rock City, Nottingham
Feb 4 O2 Academy, Newcastle
Feb 5 Barrowlands, Glasgow
Feb 6 Academy, Manchester
Feb 8 O2 Academy, Leeds
Feb 9 Corn Exchange, Cambridge
Feb 11 O2 Academy Brixton, London
Feb 12 O2 Academy, Birmingham

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The one for spangly pop wonderment

2

CHVRCHES

WHO: Glaswegian electropop trio who've hit their second-album stride.

TELL ME MORE: News about the group almost always concerns lead singer Lauren Mayberry's vocal stance on misogyny. But to focus on this facet is to overlook Chvrches' bubbling, energetic electro brilliance. Their live show is about the knockout tracks, from old ('We Sink') to new ('Clearest Blue').

WATCH OUT FOR: Lauren Mayberry not taking any sexist bullsh*t.

TICKETS: £20.50-£25.25, chvrch.es/shows

DATES: Nov 16 Dome, Brighton

17 O2 Academy, Bristol 19 Albert Hall, Manchester

21 O2 Academy, Newcastle

23 Music Hall, Aberdeen 24 Fat Sams, Dundee

25 O2 Academy, Birmingham

27 Alexandra Palace, London



The one your little sister will faint at

CATFISH AND THE BOTTLEMEN

3

WHO: Llandudno quartet fronted by high-energy gob Van McCann.

TELL ME MORE: Even in the tiniest venues, Catfish And The Bottlemen get fans sitting on their mates' shoulders and bawling along. Since last September's debut album 'The Balcony', the band have built a reputation as a powerhouse live act on the back of chantable guitar hits like 'Kathleen' and 'Cocoon' and a slew of tent-ramming festival shows. Their UK tour continues through early November.

WATCH OUT FOR: Van McCann's manic guitar acrobatics.

TICKETS: Sold out, catfishandthebottlemen.com/shows

DATES: Nov 6 & 7 O2 Brixton Academy, London 8 O2 Academy, Birmingham 10 Rock City, Nottingham 11 Corn Exchange, Cambridge 12 O2 Guildhall, Southampton



The one for triumphant underdogs

THE COURTEENERS

4

WHO: Self-made Rochdale rock titans.

TELL ME MORE: With precious little press or radio support, The Courteeners rose through the indie rock ranks via a combination of hard graft, self-belief and Oasis-lite choruses. Now every Courteeners show is a tribal celebration of how far the band and their fans have come together.

WATCH OUT FOR: The best line in their best song: "What took you so long?/Was there a queue at the post office?"

TICKETS: £24.75-£29 plus booking fee

DATES: Nov 27 Engine Shed, Lincoln 29 O2 Academy, Glasgow 30 O2 Academy, Newcastle

Dec 1 O2 Academy, Leicester 3 Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

4 O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London 5 O2 Forum Kentish Town, London

8-12, 17-19 O2 Apollo, Manchester



The one for sweaty rock'n' roll frolics

THE VACCINES

WHO: High-octane rock'n'rollers from London who've flattened the UK indie scene like a runaway steamroller.

TELL ME MORE: Their latest album 'English Graffiti' is The Vaccines' poppiest yet, meaning their songs will feel right at home on these huge stages. Frontman Justin Young is evolving into a true showman who can spin from hip-thrusting self-assurance to kneeling on the floor, face pained with emotion.

WATCH OUT FOR: Matching T-Birds-style outfits and choreographed struts.

TICKETS: £25-£29, NME.com/tickets

DATES: Nov 17 Civic Hall, Wolverhampton 19 Brighton Centre, Brighton 20 Capital FM Arena, Nottingham 22, 23 & 26 O2 Academy Brixton, London 25 Corn Exchange, Cambridge 29 O2 Academy, Leeds 30 International Centre, Bournemouth Dec 1 Motorpoint Arena, Sheffield 3 Pavilions, Plymouth 4 Empress Ballroom, Blackpool 7 Usher Hall, Edinburgh

5





6

The one that's a bit of a gamble, basically

DEERHUNTER

WHO: Psychedelic Atlantans, fond of challenging audience preconceptions.

TELL ME MORE: Some bands just turn up and play the hits. Not Deerhunter. Their records may be carefully constructed, with layers of guitars, drums and bass drifting over frontman Bradford Cox's watery vocals – but their gigs are impossible to predict. Take the second night of their current tour for example. At the Regent Theatre in LA, the five-piece played a messy set that took in a 30-minute noise jam, several stage invasions and singer Cox chucking pot-plants into the crowd. Cox has previous for this sort of thing. Performing under his Atlas Sound solo guise in March 2012, he responded to audience heckles for The Knack's 1979 classic 'My Sharona' by yelling "F**k you" and playing a meandering cover of the song for an hour. Atlas Sound will be opening for Deerhunter on every night of the tour. You have been warned.

WATCH OUT FOR: Beneath the madness lurk some awesome songs, particularly 'Breaker' and 'Carrion' from recent seventh album 'Fading Frontier'.

TICKETS £15, NME.com/tickets

DATES: Nov 6 Gorilla, Manchester
7 O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London

The one that'll make you dance like your shoes are on fire

FOALS

WHO: Math rock pioneers, recently heard going a bit epic-metal on Top Five album 'What Went Down'.

TELL ME MORE: Foals are the band who got big without sacrificing their intensity or experimental edge. Since emerging from the Oxford underground in 2007, they've developed an amorphous, atmospheric grandeur on tracks such as 'Spanish Sahara' and 'A Knife In The Ocean' and a solid way with a prehistoric metal riff on 'What Went Down'. It's made their live shows as varied as a Heston Blumenthal packed lunch and as riveting as a *Downton* bloodbath.

WATCH OUT FOR: Frontman Yannis Philippakis somehow managing to scale 10-foot speaker stacks *while still playing his guitar*.

TICKETS: Sold out, foals.co.uk

DATES: Nov 6 Olympia, Liverpool

Nov 7 UEA, Norwich

Nov 8 Cardiff University Great Hall, Cardiff

Nov 10 Music Hall, Aberdeen

Nov 11 O2 Academy, Newcastle

Nov 13 O2 Guildhall, Southampton

Nov 14 Dreamland 'By The Sea', Margate

Nov 15 Anson Rooms, Bristol

Nov 16 Corn Exchange, Cambridge

Feb 10 3Arena, Dublin

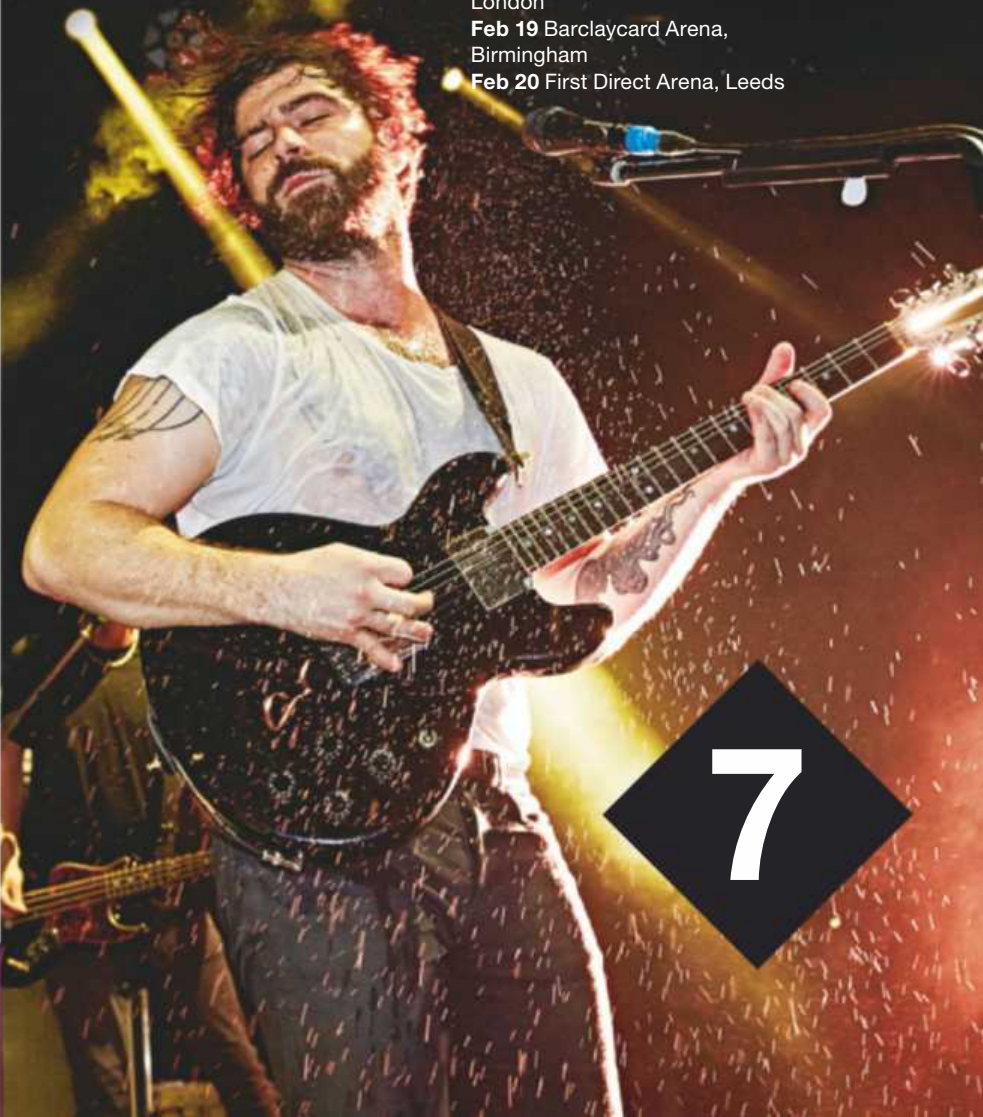
Feb 12 SSE Hydro, Glasgow

Feb 13 Arena, Manchester

Feb 16 SSE Arena Wembley, London

Feb 19 Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

Feb 20 First Direct Arena, Leeds



7



The one most likely to feature Sam Smith

DISCLOSURE

8

WHO: Redhill brothers who helped launch the deep house revival.

TELL ME MORE: Surrounded on stage by computers, synths, live percussion and effects boards, Guy and Howard Lawrence might not look like much, but they know how to work a crowd. The hits are amped up to new levels live, while a retina-dazzling lightshow helps Disclosure bend sweaty crowds to their will.

WATCH OUT FOR: Special guest vocalists. Here's hoping The Weeknd rocks up to sing his part on the thumping 'Nocturnal'.

TICKETS: £30-£33, NME.com/tickets

DATES: Nov 26 SSE Hydro, Glasgow 28 Manchester Central, Manchester Dec 1, 2 & 3 Alexandra Palace, London

The one most likely to be sacrilegious

MADONNA

WHO: Pop legend and noted social media oversharer.

TELL ME MORE: 'Rebel Heart' is Her Madgesty's best-received album in years and her current live show has been picking up rave reviews everywhere. But otherwise it's been a rocky year: 'Rebel Heart' was leaked, her social media strategy of wrapping images of 'rebels' in tape was deemed "disrespectful" and she fell arse-over-t*t at the Brits. But you're unlikely to dwell on those moments when she whips out an electro-pop version of 'Like A Virgin' or writhes around with dancers sexily dressed as members of the clergy.

WATCH OUT FOR: Sexy nuns and sexy priests.

TICKETS: From £44.80, madonna.com/tour

DATES: Dec 1 & 2 O2 Arena, London 14 Arena, Manchester 16 Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham 20 SSE Hydro, Glasgow



9



10

The one where you'll discover your inner unicorn

LA PRIEST

WHO: Bonkers former Late Of The Pier frontman Sam Dust.

TELL ME MORE: For the past few years, Sam's been holed up in a remote part of Wales making excellent solo album 'Inji'. The isolation has only amplified his oddness: he played his first gig as LA Priest in a shed lit up by fairy lights, while he accessorises the slinky funk vibe of his songs by dressing in white silk pyjamas and gold necklace,

like an Aztec lounge lizard.

WATCH OUT FOR: 'Oino', the most immediate track on his electro-pop-funk record.

TICKETS: £9.90-£13.65, NME.com/tickets

DATES: Nov 10 Patterns, Brighton 11 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham 14 Soup Kitchen, Manchester 15 Headrow House, Leeds 17 Broadcast, Glasgow 19 Heaven, London 20 The Space, Nottingham

NME

How to save Saturday night TV

As Saturday nights in continue to be ruined by the stale formats and glitzy cruelty of *The X Factor* and *Strictly*, we ask eight telly addicts what they'd replace them with



ROB DELANEY & SHARON HORGAN Catastrophe couple

Rob: "Make a celebrity cry. I think it'd be good to see Danny Dyer be sad – in a fun way."



Sharon: "Celebrity parkour. That'd be pretty good. There might be some serious damage."

Rob: "I only recently heard of Jools Holland and that he always plays piano with people who visit his show. So I'd like to see Jools Holland doing things he isn't good at. Like belly dance with Shakira."

Sharon: "When those *X Factor*-type shows first came out, there was something slightly interesting about them. Now they make me want to vom. You can't keep spewing out the same formula. Jeez, I hope I never need a job from Simon Cowell."

Catastrophe is on C4 every Tuesday at 10pm



BALLS FROM ABOVE



JOSH WIDDICOMBE On the Last Leg

"Remember *Hole In The Wall*? This is even better.

It's a show where you stand there and they drop increasingly large balls, and you have to try to catch them without them hitting the floor. You start with a tennis ball. Then you move up to a football, which will be easy, and then it gets bigger and bigger until it's like one of those balls from *Total Wipeout*.

Whoever can catch the largest ball from the greatest height wins. There will be a water balloon round, too. Bowling ball will be a difficult round. On the judging panel I'll have David Seaman, because he's been lobbed on so many occasions. I'm never in for Saturday night telly. I found out the other day that *The X Factor* is two hours long. That's more than most films. It's insane. *Balls From Above* will be four hours."

Josh's sitcom, *Josh*, airs on BBC3 from Wednesday November 11



KARL PILKINGTON Gervais stooge

"It would be like *The Apprentice*, but with young people who want to be surgeons. They'd start

off doing basic jobs around hospitals. You'd get to know the contestants as they clean up sick and sh*t, and as the weeks progress they move on to small operations. There would be a panel of doctors who mark their performance. It would build to each finalist having to perform a major surgery. The heart monitor would add real tension. There are loads of hospital dramas on telly so people will be well into it. There'll be

feelgood moments and maybe a few deaths – it might get kids wanting to be doctors instead of bloody singers."

Karl Pilkington: *The Moaning Of Life* is on Sky 1/HD, Tuesdays, 9pm

SORT YOUR FACE OUT



AMY CHILDS
Ultimate
Essex girl
"Right now,
I'm watching
clips of James
Corden's

Carpool Karaoke, and I started to think that I should do the same thing with makeovers, in the ladies' toilets, on a Saturday night in a club. I could wait for girls to come in to redo their make-up. I'd jump out of one of the cubicles and give them a 30-minute makeover, then send them back out on the pull. I could even set up a shower curtain and give the pale girls a quick spray tan and a vajazzle. I'd be a bit like Cilla Black, buying hats for all the weddings I set up, all thanks to some skills with lip liner and bronzer. It's a brilliant idea, I know."

Amy Childs' book 100% Me is out now via Blink Publishing



JESSICA KNAPPETT
Inbetweener
and Drifter
"Entitled,
intolerant

members of the British public who hold unsubstantiated anti-immigration views are invited to settle the immigration crisis once and for all... by

swapping places with a refugee and being forced to leave the country for good unless they can prove they are of more value to society than the incoming contestant. Agents from UK Border Control stand guard at the start, waiting to confiscate the passport of, say, inflammatory journalist Katie Hopkins and hand over citizenship to the asylum-seeking contestant instead. Challenges include basic empathy, cultural

literacy and geopolitics – but to make it fair, the bigoted British participants will have to spend several months in a refugee camp before taking part in the contest. Meanwhile the refugees get to live in the comfort of the British contestant's privileged, white, Western home eating paprika Pringles and watching *The Great British Bake Off*."

Drifters is on E4, Thursdays, 9pm

WRESTLEMINSTER



JOHNNY MARR
Guitar hero

"I think they should bring back wrestling, but have politicians doing it in the most embarrassing

costumes they can muster. I was going to say that first and foremost, there should be some musical entertainment on, which shows how little regard I've got for those talent shows... I think of them more as pantomime and abuse. It'd be great to have a cutting-edge music show on at any time, but Saturday night would be really great. If there has to be reality TV, it should be following interesting people – artists, writers and musicians. Why don't we see the side of Britain that's creative, rather than destructive? Reality TV that's about cool young people doing interesting sh*t would be a good start. How about something inspirational for a change?"

Johnny Marr's new live album, 'Adrenalin Baby', is out now



I'M ALL WRIGHT, JACK!



PADDY MCGUINNESS
Love lift operator

"Jack Whitehall brings his man-of-the-people charm to this quiz show in which two teams of celebrity Wrights answer questions on the father of modern aviation, Wilbur Wright. Round one: All Wright At The Back. Arsenal's Ian Wright kicks footballs at our guest, Michael Barrymore. Every time Barrymore heads it, the audience shout: "All Wright at the back!" Round two: Far Wright. We pack Mark Wright off on a long-haul flight with Nick Griffin. Round three: Am I Wright? Our team have to guess which one of our line-up is film director Edgar Wright. Final Round: I'm All Wright Jack. Our remaining Wrights are put in a zero-G simulator. First one to answer a question about Wilbur Wright correctly before passing out wins."

Paddy is currently touring the UK

NME

vinyl is back?

it never went away.

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RADAR

MUSIC, FILM, TV, GAMES AND MORE – THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

Best NEW tracks

And when to drop them

Best for raiding tombs

KAREN O
I Shall Rise

Written for the new *Tomb Raider* game, Karen O is strong and haunting in this tense piece of melodrama that she's described as her own 'I Will Survive'.

Best for downing seven lagers

CATFISH AND THE BOTTLEMEN
7

The Llandudno lads return with this gigantic stomper, and it's not hard to imagine '7's stadium-sized chorus being played in a fittingly cavernous venue soon.

Best for getting in the zone

ARIANA GRANDE
Focus

Ariana moves on from donut-gate with this trumpet-featuring bolt of pop, in which she asserts "Let them say what they say 'cos I'm about to put them all away" like a boss.



Best for being political

BLOOD ORANGE
Sandra's Smile

Dev Hynes does his best Jacko on a tribute to an African-American woman found hanged in her cell after a minor traffic offence.

Best for narcotic trips to Club Narnia

GUM

Anesthetized Lesson

Tame Impala drummer Jay Watson turns up the weirdo disco-funk on this track from solo project Gum.

Best for nursing a break-up

MONEY

You Look Like A Sad Painting On Both Sides Of The Sky

The Manchester poets are in typically sombre form over swelling piano on this blustery heart-wrencher.

Best for dance-offs

CHANCE THE RAPPER (FEATURING SABA)
Angels

"I got my city doing frontflips" boasts Chance on this pumped-up cut that mixes the youthful sound of 2013 mixtape 'Acid Rap' with his jazzier recent work.

Best for moshing

SPRING KING
Who Are You?

The first band played on Apple's radio station, Beats 1, Spring King's next move had to be big. The garage-rock rampage of 'Who Are You?' doesn't disappoint.



Best for punk-pop blood-letting

THE CRIBS

Regina Don't Get Lost

The Jarmans' latest opens with an whirr of sad synths. Normal service is resumed with spiky guitars and Gary's bummed-out drawl.

Best for living out *Mean Girls*

ALESSIA CARA
Wild Things

The 19-year-old Ontario songwriter follows up the smoky haze of debut track 'Here' with a slick ode to not fitting in with the cool kids.

For more new music, go to NME.com



ALESSIA CARA



ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Mersey beats

Ex-Coral guitarist Bill Ryder-Jones' third solo album is a melancholy delight

BILL RYDER-JONES
West Kirby County Primary



INDIE MERSEYSIDE MELANCHOLY

IT'S ALMOST 20 YEARS since Bill Ryder-Jones joined The Coral, back when John Major was still in Downing Street, Britpop was at its apogee and the guitarist himself was only 13 years old. As the youngest member of the group, Ryder-Jones' obvious ability marked him out as something of a prodigy, but his post-Coral trajectory – which includes playing on and touring Arctic Monkeys' 'AM' – has been

closer to that of a late, if not outright laggard, bloomer. On 'Satellites', the slowcore reverie that serves as the penultimate track of 'West Kirby County Primary', the 32-year-old's third (and best) solo album, he effectively issues a *mea culpa* to that effect. He



sings of how, "*I got lost in myself/ And time got lost as well*". There are good reasons for that – Ryder-Jones spent his time struggling with mental health issues that came close to derailing his career entirely. But in recent years, he's found his groove as a solo artist: an unhurried,

Best track

Two To Birkenhead

Even on a sad, sad record, this song stands out as a real wallower.

understated, sometimes melancholy one, but a groove all the same.

As with 2013's 'A Bad Wind Blows In My Heart', much of the album was written and recorded in Ryder-Jones' childhood home, and sounds appropriately haunted by his memories of people and places. The wistful 'Two To Birkenhead' recounts a daytrip to the old Mersey seaport, and achieves a kind of catharsis from the realisation that, "*You only hate the things you think you are*". 'Daniel', written from the perspective of his parents about the death of his brother, is a song that's both difficult to listen to and impossible to forget. Ryder-Jones' doleful voice casts a gloom over proceedings like fog rolling in off the sea, but there's still wry humour to be found. On 'Catherine And Huskisson' he frets over a nightshift-working neighbour who'll be "*f***ing fuming*" at the noise he's making. But when the end result is as good as this, who'd hold a few hours of lost sleep against him? **Barry Nicolson**

Keeping up with the Jones

Bill on his previous musical partners

THE CORAL

"I'm using their rehearsal room at the moment. Nick [Power] is one of my best friends, we play football together twice a week. I don't see as much of James [Skelly] because he lives in Hoylake, but we text. I don't see myself rejoining. I don't think we'd ever better what we were. It was a band of young lunatics who were more talented than they should have been."



ARCTIC MONKEYS

"I love those boys, and if I'm asked [to work with them again] then it's more than likely I'd say yes. Touring with them was great. Getting put up in the best hotels, getting the best food made for you all day long..."

BRJ's favourite places to drink Guinness

"We have it in every place we visit and vote on where's best," says Bill



THE HEART AND HAND Brighton

Bill says: "David Bowie on the jukebox."



GULLIVERS Manchester

Bill says: "Girl with a Bill Murray tattoo behind the bar."



ROSCOE HEAD Liverpool

Bill says: "Best Guinness in town."



Also out this week



ELLIE GOULDING
Delirium
★★★★☆

The 28-year-old singer's third album is full of ultra-polished plastic pop songs purpose built to become Number One singles.



KODE9
Nothing
★★★★☆
Dubstep originator

Kode9 (aka Glaswegian producer Steve Goodman) fills his solo debut with scraps of melody and thumps of bass that'll put hairs on your chest.



WARM BRAINS
Big Wov
★★★★☆
Former Test Icicle

Rory Attwell plays almost every instrument on his second album as Warm Brains. Its artful mix of surly Blur-tinged pop and wiry punk shows he's a talented so-and-so.



JAMIE WOON
Making Time
★★★★☆

In the four years he's taken to follow up 2011 debut 'Mirrorwriting', Jamie Woon has been outstripped by fellow dubby moper James Blake. This slinky second record sees him making up for lost time.



DARREN HAYMAN
Florence
★★★★☆

Since his folk-rock outfit Hefner split in 2002, Darren Hayman has released 12 solo albums. His 13th is the first not to feature any other musicians, and unfolds like a giant lullaby.

Read the full reviews of these and many more albums on NME.com

Black Album showdown

Metallica's self-titled 1991 album, aka 'The Black Album', is the subject of a new book. What better reason to put it in a battle with some other black albums, to suss out the blackest black album of them all.

	 METALLICA <i>The Black Album</i> (1991)	 JAY Z <i>The Black Album</i> (2003)	 PRINCE <i>The Black Album</i> (1987)	 SPINAL TAP <i>The Black Album</i> (1982)
Sleeve	Features a twirly snake. A black mamba maybe? Almost too black.	Lets the light in a bit. His baseball cap is visible for starters.	Promo only. Insanely collectable and relentlessly bootlegged.	There's none more black than this.
Story	The Californian metallers had no hand in the nickname – fans noticed the sleeve and invented it.	Reflected the mourning process that would ensue following his 2003 retirement. He returned in 2006.	Kiboshed it after apparently taking a dodgy Ecstasy tablet, released 'Lovesexy' instead.	The original 'Smell The Glove' sleeve art was too sexist. "What's wrong with sexy?" asked guitarist Nigel Tufnel.
Hits	You can't argue with 'Enter Sandman', 'Nothing Else Matters' and 'Sad But True'.	'99 Problems'! 'Encore' with Kanye! 'Change Clothes' featuring Pharrell! Hard to top.	'Bob George', features a monologue from Prince in which he refers to himself as a "skinny motherf***er with a high voice".	They're fictional, but that won't stop you singing all the words to 'Hell Hole', 'Big Bottom' and 'Sex Farm'.
Sales	16 million	3.5 million	590K (when released officially in 1994)	0 (it was made up)
Best lyric	"I hunt therefore I am" <i>Of Wolf And Man</i> Fair enough.	"And there I go trapped in the Kit Kat again" <i>99 Problems</i> One of Hova's quandaries found him prisoner within a chocolate bar. At least it wasn't a Toblerone.	"B-O-B, spell the sh*t backwards, what'd it say/Same motherf***in' sh*t" <i>Bob George</i> Prince finally gets the hang of palindromes.	"My baby fits me like a flesh tuxedo/I like to sink her with my pink torpedo" <i>Big Bottom</i> One of the Tap's more romantic numbers there.
Black-ness	Thrash metal is only slightly less hard than black metal, so this is very black indeed. WINNER	Loses points for being mixed with The Beatles' 'White Album' by Danger Mouse for 2004's 'The Grey Album'.	Black days ensued when buyers forked out huge sums on bootlegs.	Spinal Tap's interior decorator black colour chart goes up to 11. Blacker than black.

Hit man: Nicholas Hoult as villainous A&R Stelfox in *Kill Your Friends*

The drugs don't work

Nicholas Hoult stars in this gripping portrait of '90s music industry chaos

KILL YOUR FRIENDS
18 Nicholas Hoult, Craig Roberts, James Corden



DRUGS MURDER BRITPOP

SOME FILMS LEND THEMSELVES to drinking games. A character drinks, you drink, you're rolling on the floor by the time the credits roll. If you tried to keep up with the booze, drugs and fags consumed in *Kill Your Friends*, you'd end up stone cold on a mortuary slab.

A British answer to *American Psycho*, *Kill Your Friends* is a comic thriller set in the Bacchanalian music business of the late '90s, when expense accounts were generous, Britpop had sparked a guitar band goldrush and people still bought albums. Steven Stelfox (Nicholas Hoult) is an ambitious major label talent-spotter for whom music is a commodity. He hates bands, hates gigs and picking a hit act is pot luck. This lack of essential skills forces him to find an alternate route to the top – which is where the title of the film becomes reality.

For Hoult, now a Hollywood star thanks to his turn in *Mad Max: Fury Road*, this must be one of the biggest challenges of his career: making the audience care about the film's loathsome anti-hero. Stelfox is a total b*stard. But then, in their own way, everyone in the film is a total b*stard, from James Corden's gakkadled head of A&R to Edward Hogg's bent copper, Georgia King's scheming secretary and the band manager trying to foist the ropiest girl band since Vanilla (Google 'No Way No Way') on the British public.

It all sounds bleak, but it's not, thanks to pacey storytelling from

FOR FANS OF



AMERICAN PSYCHO



TRAINSPOTTING

first-time director Owen Harris and a zippy script from John Niven, music-biz survivor and author of the cult novel on which it's based. Between the lines (pun intended) there's a form of morality at work, in which life sh*t's on everyone equally. Besides, you know the characters will get their comeuppance. Somewhere in San Francisco, three guys were working on Napster... **Dan Stubbs**

Back in the day

True tales of '90s music-biz excess



ROLLS-ROYCES IN POOLS

The sleeve of Oasis' 1997 album 'Be Here Now' featured a real Rolls-Royce lowered into a swimming pool at a cost of £75,000 (including the bar tab).



DRUNKEN PRESS TRIPS

In 1998, 100 journos were flown by private jet to Copenhagen to 'experience' a live show, complete with fireworks and vodka, by vapid pop act Aqua.



COCAINE RETREATS

Britpop act Menswear's label paid for a three-month 'writing retreat' at a country house. The band spent the whole time doing coke, writing one song.

Ed Hogg plays corrupt copper DC Woodham



Ronaldo with his five-year-old son, Cristiano Junior



Football crazy

This documentary about the life of football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo leaves the big questions unanswered

RONALDO

PG Cristiano Ronaldo



DOCU FOOTBALL CELEBRITY

CRISTIANO RONALDO SPLITS opinion like he splits defences. To his fans he's a Herculean muscle-machine whose tricks, honed in dusty back alleys on Portuguese island Madeira, have taken him to peaks the game has seldom seen. To others, he's the oiled, narcissistic face of everything that's wrong with football.

Directed by Anthony Wonke, new documentary *Ronaldo* attempts to tip that balance in Cristiano's favour. Promising unprecedented access, the film was shot across 14 months from January 2014. It starts with Ronaldo winning the Champions League with Real Madrid, follows him through a difficult World Cup (he admits he "wishes he never went")

before ending at his glitzy 30th birthday bash this February.

But Wonke's film is in no way revealing. We see Cristiano testing his five-year-old son on his sports car collection. Cristiano taking his son to watch him at the gym. Cristiano's elderly mother laughing weakly about how "he was a child I wanted to abort. Now Cristiano makes fun of me, telling me, 'You didn't want me to be born!'" Issues including his implosion on CNN over questions about the corruption at Fifa and suggestions he paid the mother of his child for sole custody go unexamined.

The film looks beautiful – ultra-high definition cameras echo 2006 football

doc *Zidane: A 21st Century Portrait* – and the mania that surrounds Cristiano is entertaining. At one point, a priest interrupts christening Ronaldo's godson to ask for a selfie. But that can't save what amounts to a sanitised and disappointing watch.

Al Horner

Things that I learned while following Cristiano

By *Ronaldo* director Anthony Wonke



HE'S LIKE A BEATLE

"He causes pandemonium wherever he goes. We went to Madeira to mark the unveiling of a statue of him. The car was mobbed."

HE'S CLEVER

"People think he's arrogant and embodies all the excesses of modern football. But I found him to be a more sympathetic personality. He's very shrewd and funny."

HE HAS HAD A HARDER LIFE THAN YOU KNOW

"I didn't want to make a puff piece simply celebrating his sporting achievements, and I don't think he did either. So we talked about difficult, dark aspects of his life: his father's death from alcoholism, his brother's struggle with addiction, growing up in poverty... he's very honest."

RADAR

Also out this week



BURNT

15 **Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller**

★★★★☆

The televisual obsession with people urgently preparing food spreads to cinemas. Bradley Cooper plays a chef whose career has boiled over. Now he's looking for a comeback. Messy.



SCOUTS GUIDE TO THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE

15 **Halston Sage, Tye Sheridan, Patrick Schwarzenegger**

★★★★☆

Just when you thought you'd seen every possible permutation of zombie film, Hollywood finds a new one. Boy Scouts vs The Undead. Can't say you've seen that.



BROOKLYN

12A **Saoirse Ronan, Domhnall Gleeson, Michael Zegen**

★★★★☆

Saoirse Ronan makes an early (convincing) play for the Best Actress Oscar in an excellent weepy drama about a young woman moving from gentle Ireland to scary America.

For more reviews visit NME.com

FILM



Heart's not in it

Green Day's 2004 album 'American Idiot' was a 15-million-selling monster. The film that documents its making is nowhere near as good

HEART LIKE A HAND GRENADE

15 Billie Joe Armstrong, Mike Dirnt, Tré Cool



DOCUMENTARY PUNK POLITICS

IS 'AMERICAN IDIOT', Green Day's 15-million-selling 2004 concept album, an all-time great or an overhyped slice of pop-punk fodder? Your answer will probably influence your enjoyment of *Heart Like A Hand Grenade*, a making-of documentary that had been shelved for 11 years.

Director John Roecker has been a friend of Green Day since their formative years in Berkeley, California, and he cast frontman Billie Joe Armstrong in *Live Freaky! Die Freaky!*, his 2006 stop-motion comedy based on



the Charles Manson murders. Roecker followed the trio over nine months during 2004 as they made the record, performed it in a Los Angeles theatre and joked that the characters in it could inspire a musical. (They duly

did, and you can now see it at London's Arts Theatre.)

Given the unrestricted access, you might expect an uncompromising portrait of a band on the brink of their biggest-ever album. But instead, *Heart Like A Hand Grenade* is mostly some blokes knocking around in the studio. The band chat and record

a song, Roecker cuts to them playing it live and so it continues. On top of that, the chummy tone can leave the viewer feeling left out.

It's not all bad, though. The film livens up when drummer Tré Cool comically dons a robe and claims to be a German 'hey artist' who's hired to yell "Hey!" on records. Things threaten to get interesting when Roecker addresses politics. Released in a climate of post-9/11 paranoia and with lyrics that attack nationalism ("*Don't wanna be an American idiot*"), the album has been called a protest against US President George W Bush's administration (2001-2009), but Dirnt insists here that "politically we don't really have an agenda... It's like, 'I wanna think for myself.'"

But that insight passes quickly. If you really want to relive a classic moment in punk history, stick the album on the stereo.

Jordan Bassett



Green Day's American idiots

The freaky characters the trio invented for the album

JESUS OF SUBURBIA

The main protagonist of the 'American Idiot' story. He is a teenage anti-hero who hates his town and leaves for the big city.

Key song: 'Jesus Of Suburbia'

ST JIMMY

Demonic alter-ego created by Jesus Of Suburbia to toughen himself up. Likes danger, anarchy and drugs.

Key song: 'St Jimmy'

WHATSERNAME

Introduced as the female nemesis of St Jimmy in 'She's A Rebel'. Counters his destructive side with strong ethical values.

Key song: 'Homecoming'

A *Prophet* star
Tahar Rahim as
Khalil in *The
Last Panthers*

Is this the new Breaking Bad?

Director Johan Renck explains why his new thriller about legendary criminal gang the Pink Panthers will be the most addictive TV show of the year

THE LAST PANTHERS
Thursday, 9pm, Sky Atlantic
THRILLER JEWELS THIEVES



JOHAN RENCK

The Last Panthers follows the hunt for real-life jewel thieves the Pink Panthers – a gang of men who survived

the Yugoslav Wars. Investigators played by British veteran John Hurt and arthouse actor Samantha Morton are on their case, along with a policeman portrayed by Tahar Rahim, star of 2009 French thriller *A Prophet*. Throw in a theme by David Bowie and a script by *This Is England '86* screenwriter Jack Thorne and you've got a six-episode thriller that oozes class. Swedish director **Johan Renck** (whose CV includes *Breaking Bad*, *The Walking Dead* and videos for Madonna and Suede) tells us more.

What was it like shooting in Les Catalans, one of Marseille's most dangerous estates?

"We got the blessing of the gangster bosses there. We also employed people from the gangs – it was the only way we could make it work. I had learned from past mistakes. I did a video for The Libertines ['What Became Of The Likely Lads'] in some housing estate outside London. We went without any of this, and people were throwing bottles of p*ss at us while we were filming. It was a nightmare so this time we did it properly."

How did you go about casting gang members?

"When we came to the Balkans to cast people from Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro, we were completely in the dark. You'd cast someone and think 'they seem alright' and then be told they were the Ray Winstone of Serbia."

When did you become aware of the Pink Panthers?

"Growing up in Sweden, I knew about the romanticised and mythical aspects of these

characters. But the show is very limitedly about the Pink Panthers, even though it starts with a heist. It's more about the changing face of criminality and Europe. It's a dark thriller originating in the Yugoslav Wars."

David Bowie did the theme, 'Blackstar'. How did you hook up?

"I wanted to work with a childhood idol. Someone suggested Bowie, and it blew my mind when he was interested. He hit the target. The song embodies lots of different aspects from the show. It's dark, melancholic, biblical. It promises impending doom. And it's beautiful and almost sentimental at the same time. They say don't meet your heroes, but he truly is the most brilliant person I've ever met."

Gary Ryan

Who are the Pink Panthers?

An introduction to this gang of thieves



A Pink Panthers raid in Dubai

THE NAME

It was acquired after a London raid in 1993, when they hid a £500,000 diamond in a jar, mirroring a scene in Peter Sellers' 1975 film *The Return Of The Pink Panther*.

THE GANG

One theory has them meeting as members of the Serb Volunteer Guard – a bunch of football hooligans-turned-soldiers responsible for ethnic cleansing in Bosnia.

THE RAP SHEET

A string of spectacular heists over the last 22 years, striking at least 370 times in 35 cities in countries including Japan, France, Germany and Dubai.

THE LOOT

An estimated £500m haul of jewels.

FOR FANS OF



THE WIRE



BREAKING BAD

Acting legend
John Hurt
as insurance
investigator
Tom

GAMES

Chibi-Robo
literally means
'Mini-Robo'



Robot wars

Surreal Japanese franchise *Chibi-Robo!* returns as a 2D platform game with fiendish challenges and bizarre battles

CHIBI-ROBO! ZIP LASH
Nintendo 3DS



ROBOTS PUZZLES ANIMALS

HOW MANY ROBOTS HAVE you killed in video games? Thousands, right? But how many of those robots, just as they're aiming their in-built laser-guided gut exploder right at your pancreas, have suddenly conked

out with an empty battery icon flashing on their chest panel? Zero, correct? No video android has ever run out of juice and it's this flagrant abuse of video game realism that *Chibi-Robo! Zip Lash* aims to combat by making its protagonist a metallic Mario-cum-walking trash compactor whose battery is constantly draining and needs to hunt out plug sockets to recharge via its lassoing power cord. That said, the hard-hitting believability of *Chibi-Robo! Zip Lash* is undermined somewhat by the fact that Chibi is battling hordes

of walking staplers and gigantic metal kangaroos on a mission to collect Japanese sweets to give to excitable talking aeroplanes and toy monkeys.

We're firmly in post-Pokemon territory here; around since 2005, the five game strong *Chibi-Robo!* franchise is immersed in J-pop kiddie kitsch, right down to a soundtrack designed to erode your brain by the torture of a million bleeps. Yet within this toytown trifle lurks an intricate, engrossing and charming puzzle game that merges *Angry Birds* with cute PlayStation series *LittleBigPlanet*. Making the leap from 3D open world to traditional 2D platform game, Chibi uses his plug cord as all manner of lifelines – it's a weapon, a swing rope, a grappling hook and a long-distance button-pusher – and it's here the game comes into its own. Areas otherwise out of reach become fiendish angle-based challenges as you bounce your cord from the walls to hit treasure chests and anchor points. The result is a game that will create a generation of unwittingly brilliant snooker players, and the sort of thing that you'll get your nephew for Christmas then hog for yourself until New Year. **Mark Beaumont**

For more games reviews and previews go to NME.com

2D or not 2D

The evolution of 2D platform gaming



1984

JET SET WILLY

Released on: ZX Spectrum

JSW had Willy clearing up his mansion: a minefield of traps, ropes, beasts and ultra-precise jumps.



1985

SUPER MARIO BROS

Released on: NES/Famicom

The standard by which all platformers would be judged, *SMB* became a ubiquitous, hit-spawning global legend.



1991

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

Released on: Sega MegaDrive

Mario was all very well, but how about Mario *on speed*? Enter Sonic, a ring-gobbling 'hog who tore across screens.



2013

RAYMAN LEGENDS

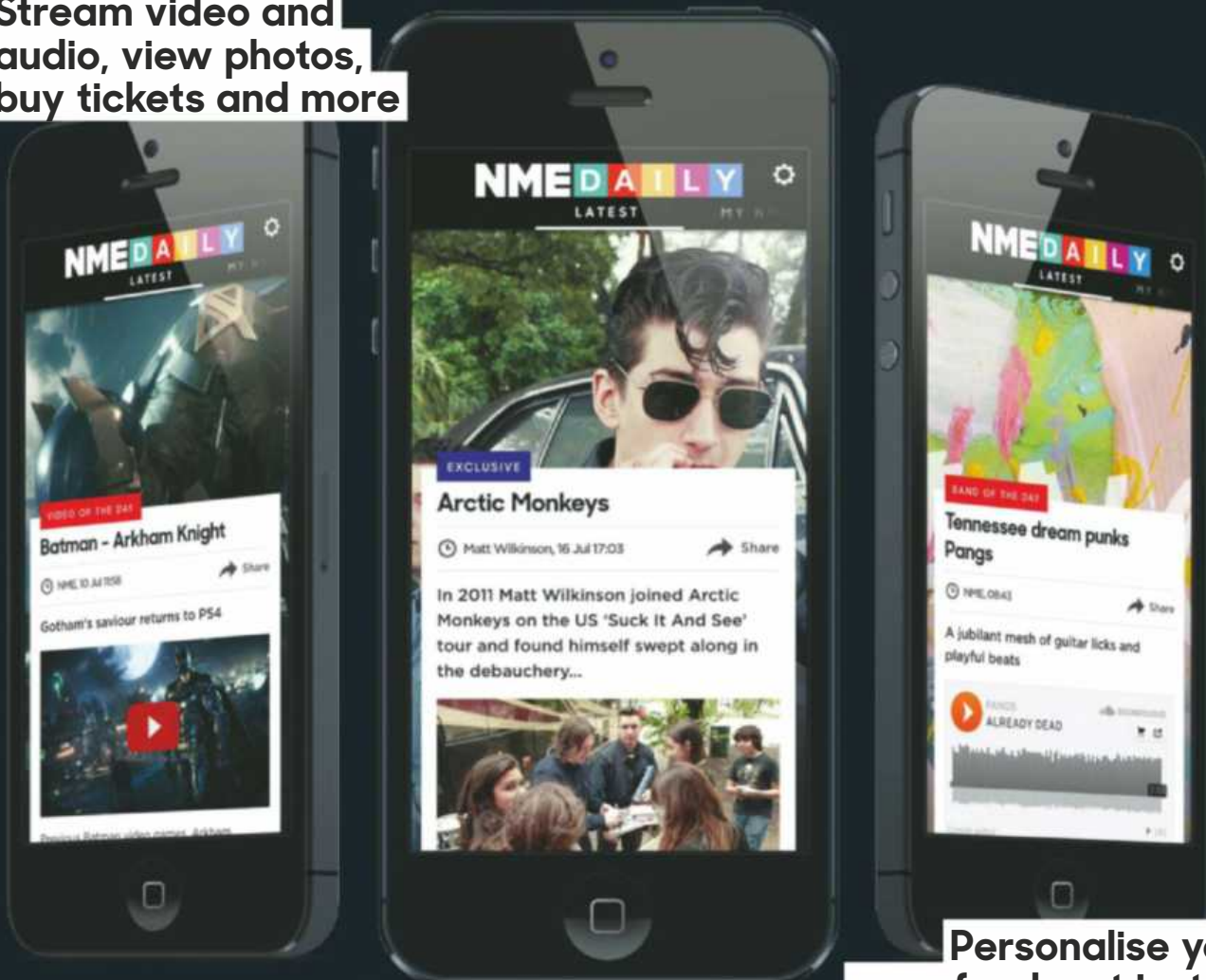
Released on: all platforms

The 2D platform game was a thing of fiendish beauty by the time *Rayman* came careering in to 'Eye Of The Tiger'. Stunning.

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YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

“I know I’m good. Also, I know that sounds arrogant”
Søren Holm

Liss (l-r): Vilhelm Strange, Villads Tyrrestrup Øster, Søren Holm, Tobias Laust



Liss

Meet Denmark’s most promising new band: fans of subversive, soulful pop prepare to be dazzled

A GAINST A BITING Nordic wind, four wide-eyed teenagers huddle together and shiver collectively. It’s 11pm and Liss are sat on a damp bench in the middle of Copenhagen’s meatpacking district, with an air of discomfort seeping through their every move. They are Denmark’s brightest musical prospects – with bright being the optimum word.

Whereas many of the country’s recent musical exports have been dark, gloomy and guitar-orientated (from the snarling gutter-punk of Iceage to Lust For Youth’s gothic tendencies), the music these newcomers make is far more linear. Brought up by parents who played them Stevie Wonder, Björk, Hendrix and Massive Attack on loop, they’re *obsessed* with the idea of soul in pop in 2015.

Most excitingly, in frontman Søren Holm, they’re gifted with a bona fide star-in-waiting: he’s a born performer with effortless, soaring vocals that recall The Weeknd and Frank Ozcean. “I know I’m good,” he mumbles about his singing after much goading – and then shows his softer side: “Also, I know that sounds really arrogant...”

The rest of the band are equally shy, with guitarist Vilhelm Strange admitting that until debut tracks ‘Try’ and ‘Always’ took off on Soundcloud a few months ago they “didn’t even have any ambitions at all”.

Clearly, Liss know they’re good though. When they take to the stage an hour later at nearby grungey venue Bakken, they’re genuinely captivating, with deft touches of Smiths-esque guitar adding a new, ambitious layer to their already vibrant sound. In the

Details

FROM Aarhus, Denmark

LISTEN ‘Try’ and ‘Always’ are on all major streaming sites now

FACT The band have been in the studio with noted XL Recordings producer Rodaith McDonald

LIVE Liss are planing on returning to the UK at the start of 2016.

SOCIAL facebook.com/LISSLISSLISSLISSLISS

For more on Liss, head to NME.com

middle of the audience, Jamie xx – in town to DJ at a nearby club later on – looks on in awe. Like most people here he’s already fallen under Liss’ spell. Give it a few months and you will too. **Matt Wilkinson**

FOR FANS OF



FRANK OCEAN



THE WEEKND

Best track

Always

An evocative, sullen tearjerker – perfect pop-soul for indie kids

live

THE 10 MOST IMPORTANT
GIGS THIS WEEK

1

Skrillex

Friday 6 The Warehouse
Project, Manchester

WHO: Polarising EDM pioneer who regularly performs from inside a custom-built tank and has essentially trademarked the 'half shave' hairstyle.

WHY: Skrillex's all about the bangers. The Warehouse Project is all about the bangers. Skrillex x The Warehouse Project will bang more than Russell Brand as Bond.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: An impressive selection of house and dance DJs including Tchami, What So Not and Karma Kid.

TICKETS: Sold out but available from £52.89 from secondary ticketing sites

2

Vant

Saturday 7 Swn Festival,
Cardiff

Tuesday 10 Townhouse,
Middlesbrough

Thursday 12 The Horn, St
Albans

WHO: Hard-rocking, buzzy new quartet that riff like The Vines and swagger like The Strokes.

WHY: Early singles 'The Answer' and 'Do You Know Me?' prove singer Mattie Vant's a natural with a natty hook.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Dead Rivers open up in Middlesbrough, while Swn Festival will also host the likes of Du Blonde and Hooton Tennis Club.

TICKETS: Free in Middlesbrough; £5.95 in St Albans from ticketweb.co.uk; £42 for a weekend Swn pass from swnfest.com/tickets





3

Sheer Mag

Saturday 7 Static Shock Festival, London

Sunday 8 JT Soar, Nottingham
Monday 9 The Old Hairdressers, Glasgow

Tuesday 10 The Lughole, Sheffield

Thursday 12 Temple Of Boom, Leeds

WHO: Philadelphian five-piece who mix punk with '70s classic rock. They initially listed their debut release on Bandcamp for the affordable price of \$100,000.

WHY: They were *the* buzz band at this year's SXSW festival, with frontwoman Tina Halladay's raw energy and mesmerising presence at the heart of all that fuss. 'What You Want' is the rollicking, riff-driven highlight of their set.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: The punky Megaflora.

TICKETS: Static Shock Festival £14.30 from dometufnellpark.co.uk; tickets on the door elsewhere



5

Annie Mac Presents...

Friday 6 O2 Academy, Bournemouth

Saturday 7 Motion, Bristol

WHO: BBC Radio 1 stalwart, now in charge of the prestigious weekday evening slot, hugely respected DJ and general taste-making tour de force.

WHY: Annie Mac Presents... isn't just a gig, it's a whole night out. As well as an inevitably vibey DJ set from Mac, you'll also get live sets from Stormzy and others.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: The aforementioned London grime star, plus Bristol DJ Redlight and more.

TICKETS: £22.50, ticketweb.co.uk

live

4

Happy Mondays

Friday 6 O2 Academy, Birmingham

Saturday 7 Butlins, Minehead

Thursday 12 O2 Academy, Sheffield

WHO: A miraculously sober Shaun Ryder, Bez (right) and the motley Manchester crew – lynchpins of the legendary Hacienda scene.

WHY: Celebrating the 25th anniversary of seminal LP 'Pills 'n' Thrills And Bellyaches', these gigs will be all about the hits – from 'Step On' to 'Kinky Afro'.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

Manchester quintet Alias Kid, hailed by Ryder as "the new Oasis".

TICKETS: £32.80 from NME.com/tickets



6

Jess Glynne

Friday 6 O2 Academy, Glasgow

Tuesday 10 O2 Academy, Newcastle

Wednesday 11 Academy, Manchester

WHO: The UK's newest pop megastar, who went from always being the guest vocalist bridesmaid to a fully fledged A-list bride.

WHY: As well as playing hits from her own debut 'I Cry When I Laugh', Jess could well bring out Clean Bandit or Tinie Tempah for her collabs on 'Rather Be' and 'Not Letting Go'.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

Australian singer-songwriter Conrad Sewell.

TICKETS: Sold out but available from secondary ticketing outlets from £51





7

The 1975

Monday 9 Guild of Students, Liverpool
Tuesday 10 De Montfort Hall, Leicester
Wednesday 11 O2 Academy, Sheffield
Thursday 12 Dome, Doncaster

WHO: Leftfield pop types, recently re-emerged with a flamboyant new look and ludicrous INXS-influenced comeback track 'Love Me'.
WHY: Any band that calls their forthcoming second album 'I Like It When You Sleep For You Are So Beautiful But So Unaware Of It' will either be lavish pop brilliance or under arrest by the end of the show.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: Cheeky chappy Essex lad and the heir to Jamie T's throne, Rat Boy.
TICKETS: Sold out but available from £41 on secondary ticketing sites



9

Joey Bada\$\$

Thursday 12 O2 Academy, Liverpool

WHO: Brooklyn rapper who recently dropped an unexpected collaboration with Oxford indie quartet Glass Animals ('Lose Control') following long-awaited debut 'B4.DA.\$\$\$' earlier this year.

WHY: One of rap's most exciting new stars, Bada\$\$ has worked with MF Doom, supported Disclosure, A\$AP Rocky and Wiz Khalifa and been namechecked by anyone who's anyone in hip-hop.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: Label-mate Mick Jenkins and Florida rapper Denzel Curry.
TICKETS: £20.90 from NME.com/tickets

8

Imagine Dragons

Friday 6 Capital FM Arena, Nottingham
Tuesday 10 First Direct Arena, Leeds
Wednesday 11 Motorpoint Arena, Cardiff

WHO: The *other* massively successful arena rock quartet from Las Vegas, who broke through in 2012 with omnipresent hit 'Radioactive'.

WHY: Expect them to utilise every whistle, bang, firework and flamethrower possible. We're imagining... I dunno... dragons?
WHO'S SUPPORTING: UK/Aussie quartet Sunset Sons, with their beach-ready indie rock.
TICKETS: £33 in Leeds, sold out at other venues but available on secondary ticketing sites from £47



10

Frank Turner & the Sleeping Souls

Friday 6 & Saturday 7 Guildhall, Southampton
Monday 9 & Tuesday 10 Princess Pavilion, Falmouth

WHO: Punk troubadour and outspoken political and social raconteur, on the glory road to Ally Pally.

WHY: Mr T's built a devoted army of fans of his folk-punk preachings, and current album 'Positive Songs For Negative People' is his most cohesive and uplifting yet.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: London's rum-sharing pirate folk rabble-rousers Skinny Lister.

TICKETS: Sold out but available from secondary ticketing sites from £55

For tour news and live reviews go to NME.com



Best of the rest

Bill Ryder-Jones

Sat 7 Hug And Pint, Glasgow
Sun 8 Mash House, Edinburgh
Mon 9 Cluny, Newcastle

Blackalicious

Sun 8 Globe, Cardiff
Tue 10 Sub89, Reading

Broken Hands

Sun 8 Bodega, Nottingham

Catfish And The Bottlemen

Fri 6 & Sat 7 O2 Academy Brixton, London
Sun 8 O2 Academy, Birmingham
Tue 10 Rock City, Nottingham
Wed 11 Corn Exchange, Cambridge
Thu 12 O2 Guildhall, Southampton

Dutch Uncles

Wed 11 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Everything Everything

Sat 7 University, Cardiff
Sun 8 De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea
Mon 9 Pyramids Centre, Portsmouth
Wed 11 Rock City, Nottingham
Thu 12 O2 ABC, Glasgow

The Fall

Wed 11 Clapham Grand, London
Thu 12 Concorde 2, Brighton

Foals

Fri 6 Olympia, Liverpool
Sat 7 UEA, Norwich
Sun 8 University, Cardiff
Tue 10 Music Hall, Aberdeen
Wed 11 O2 Academy, Newcastle

The Fratellis

Fri 6 Club Tropicana & Vogue, Dundee
Sun 8 Garage, Aberdeen
Tue 10 O2 Academy, Liverpool
Wed 11 Waterfront, Norwich
Thu 12 O2 Academy, Oxford

Gaz Coombes

Wed 11 Komedia, Bath

Ibeyi

Fri 6 Oobleck, Birmingham
Sat 7 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
Sun 8 Gorilla, Manchester
Tue 10 King Tut's Wah Wah Hut, Glasgow

Joanna Newsom

Mon 9 Eventim Hammersmith Apollo, London

John Grant

Thu 12 Eventim Hammersmith Apollo, London

Kurt Vile

Wed 11 Concorde 2, Brighton
Thu 12 Electric Ballroom, London



Ben, 24, from Leicester
 @Estill_90

Foals

Sat 7 UEA, Norwich
 "I'm going to see what Yannis will climb up and jump from when they play 'Snake Oil'"

Kurt Vile plays
 Brighton and London,
Wed 11-Thu 12

Lucy Rose

Sat 7 O2 Academy, Liverpool
Sun 8 O2 Academy, Oxford
Mon 9 O2 Academy, Leicester
Tue 10 Roadmender, Northampton
Thu 12 Riverside, Newcastle

Lusts

Fri 6 The Cookie, Leicester
Sat 7 Lennon's, Southampton
Mon 9 Bullingdon, Oxford
Wed 11 Green Door Store, Brighton

Oneohtrix Point Never

Sun 8 Village Underground, London

The Ordinary Boys

Fri 6 Live Rooms, Chester
Sat 7 Sugarmill, Stoke
Sun 8 Night & Day, Manchester
Tue 10 Old Courts, Wigan
Wed 11 Think Tank?, Newcastle
Thu 12 Liquid Rooms, Edinburgh

Prides

Fri 6 O2 Academy, Oxford
Sat 7 Leadmill, Sheffield
Mon 9 Academy, Manchester
Tue 10 O2 Institute2, Birmingham
Thu 12 KOKO, London

Reverend And The Makers

Thu 12 Picturedrome, Holmfirth

Richard Hawley

Fri 6 Motorpoint Arena, Sheffield
Sun 8 Roundhouse, London
Mon 9 Colston Hall, Bristol
Tue 10 O2 Guildhall, Southampton

Sundara Karma

Sat 7 The Bowery District, Reading

Ultimate Painting

Tue 10 The Hope And Ruin, Brighton

The Wedding Present

Fri 6 Art School, Glasgow
Sat 7 Riverside, Newcastle

For tour news and live reviews go to NME.com

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SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE

Jimmy Carr

Panel-show host for 8 out of 10-related subjects

The first song I remember hearing

BONEY M

Brown Girl In The Ring

"This would have been something my mum had on. Myself, my mum and my brother would go to the Slough Record Centre and buy a few 7"s, go home and play them and dance round the living room. I suppose it's the first thing that you're allowed to choose. Being a kid you're used to 'right, you're eating that, finish it', then suddenly it's 'right, you can buy a record'. It's kind of important at the time."



The first song I fell in love with

PRINCE

When Doves Cry

"I was kind of obsessed with it. I still think it's a remarkable song. I don't think there's any bass in it. It's a weird-sounding track but growing up in suburban Slough, that Minneapolis funk sounds like it's from another world, another planet. It's magical."



The first album I bought

SEX PISTOLS

Never Mind The Bollocks

"It was a white label and I got it in 1975, two years before it came out. That's clearly a lie, I just wanna look cool in the NME."

The song I do at karaoke

NEIL DIAMOND

Sweet Caroline

"I'll step to anyone at the karaoke bar with my *Sweet Caroline*. It's a song that I think English people don't know they know, but they all do. You go to enough weddings, you pick it up."

The song that makes me want to dance

THE STONE ROSES

Fools Gold

"This would have been the song that meant something when I was 17. Having just watched *This is England '90*, you sort of go, 'Oh yes, I did that. That is my childhood.'"

The song I can no longer listen to

JEFF BUCKLEY

Hallelujah

I don't want to be mawkish about it but my mother was a big Jeff Buckley fan; she got me into him and then this was played at her funeral. It could be on in the background but if I really listen to it, it just chokes me up.



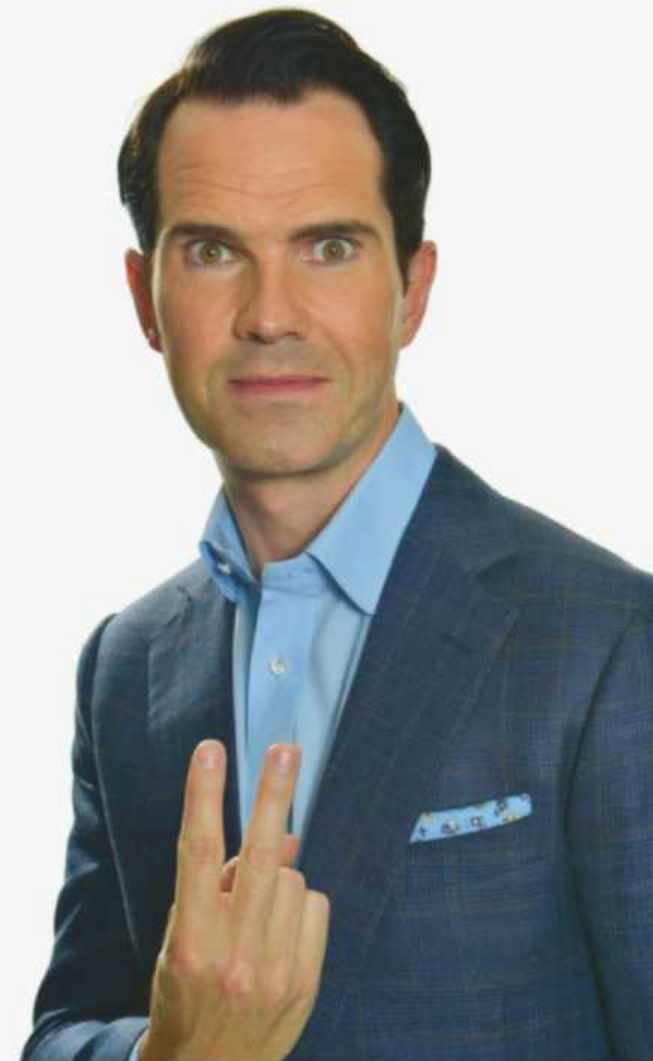
The song that makes me laugh

THE SMITHS

Girlfriend In A Coma

"There's some Morrissey stuff that's genuinely funny. The fact that he gets no credit for it is a disgrace. It doesn't get much funnier than '*Girlfriend in a coma/ I know it's serious*'. If Alan Bennett had written it you'd call it genius. Well, it is genius."

Go to NME.com for more Soundtracks



The song I walk onstage to

RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS

Can't Stop

"This is a great walk-on track. Pre-gig, you feel a bit of adrenaline, a bit of fight in you. This tends to be what we'll have on before I stroll on and tell jokes for two hours."

The song I want played at my funeral

DEATH CAB

FOR CUTIE

I Will Follow You Into The Dark

"It feels like it's about atheism. People don't talk about losing their faith, but I used to believe, and now I don't have that imaginary friend any more."

Jimmy Carr: The Best Of, Ultimate, Gold, Greatest Hits Tour is on sale now. For ticket details see jimmycarr.com



The wisdom of the NME archives

THIS WEEK

LIAM GALLAGHER

Clothing label boss

November 11, 2006

"I suppose I do get sad, but not for too long. I just look in the mirror and go, 'What a f***ing good looking f**k you are.' And then I brighten up."

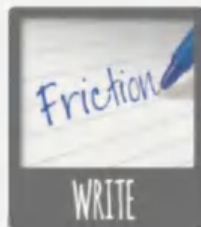




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ARE A GOOD REASON
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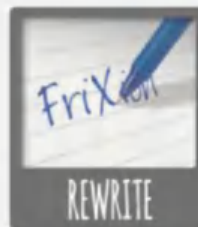
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